

Minutes of the Comprehensive Sustainable Energy Committee of April 15, 2007

Pursuant to notice filed with the Town Clerk, the Sustainable Energy Committee (Committee) met at 6:30 p.m. in the first Floor Meeting room at 141 Keyes Road.

Present:

Sean Detweiler

Pamela Hathaway

Sally Hughes

Art Fulman

Brian Crounse

Dan Gainesboro (guest)

Mr. Crounse convened the meeting at 6:38 p.m.

Review CSE Committee Charge

The Committee decided to defer this item to next meeting.

Review of Minutes from March 4, 2008

Mr. Fulman moved to approve the minutes, Ms. Hughes seconded. All voted in FAVOR.

Brief Summary of Miscellaneous Items

Mr. Crounse commented that he has been asked to lead “high visibility group”, which might include Representative Cory Atkins, Selectman and others.

He noted that calculating the carbon footprint is a good first step toward measuring energy use.

He also updated the group on Earth Hour. The data compared to other March Saturdays; it showed high variation with lots of noise. It was not a strong indication of any significant drop (most credible assessment: maximum 2% difference). He noted that the main lesson is more effective marketing.

Update on New Board Members

The Committee decided to defer this item to next meeting.

Update on Dishwashers for Schools

Ms. Hughes gave an overview to the history of the project to Mr. Gainsboro. She said that the Committee should think about the high school and whether to invest \$40K with \$22K to be able to move to new facility. It was mentioned to maybe phase the process.

It was noted that someone needs to get Willard School Building Committee to change design for kitchen to accommodate energy star machine—Mr. Crounse volunteered to discuss this with them and Build Willard.

Discussion on Alfred H. Sawyer Conservation Fund Application Process

Mr. Crounse provided an overview of Facilities Managers meeting. He said that he and Mr. Crowley talked with Assistant Town Manager. The discussion focused primarily on audits and that it was unclear on where managers are in addressing recommendations from existing audits. Overall consensus is to collectively address common actions (i.e. all address lighting, controls, etc.) and need to do a coordinated audit and implementation plan.

Sawyer Trust appears not to cover audits. Existing conservation funds available at Light Plant could possibly be used. Mr. Fulman doesn't know what the Town Manager referencing as residential audit costs are typically picked up by Light Plant.

Mr. Crounse explained that the existing audits are most likely preliminary level; the Town needs higher level of measurement and detail.

Mr. Fulman expressed disappointed to have to do more research and spend the money as the Town only has about \$100K/year to do projects. He wondered if this amount will be comprehensive. Mr. Fulman would like to see smaller projects first just to get the ball rolling and is concerned that perhaps the existing audits weren't used to potential.

The Committee noted that the Town needs to know how much. There are ESCOs that would do this work—and there are companies that would just do the audits.

Mr. Dan Gainesboro commented that he did this for Clark University—went through and identified low-hanging fruit. He asked whether this might be useful. Five-part program cost \$75K. He continued that the energy consumption profile—established metric for improvement. Audits were conducted for all buildings and identified low-hanging fruit (focus on central heating plant). He was also involved in developing educational program for students.

The Committee wondered “How many buildings in the Town?” Mr. Crounse estimated that there is about 800K square feet (including CCHS); roughly half million qualifying for Sawyer Trust monies; 24 buildings listed.

It was also noted that the Town does not have a single facility manager—Clark University developed a “sustainability manager” position. The Committee commented that the Town could use such a position.

Mr. Crounse noted that the benefit of doing a coordinated audit—could lead more readily to an implementation plan. Coordinated audit would result in a checklist of actions for each

building—facility manager could go down the list and check off, submit application for funding. Also, the Town could save through comprehensive program (e.g., do all lighting at the same time).

Ms. Hathaway moved the Committee, “Write a letter to Chris explaining that we would like to be involved in the development of the criteria for the audit (e.g., designing the RFP)”. Ms. Hughes seconded. All vote in FAVOR.

The Committee also decided to maintain May 1 deadline as they are expecting a couple of proposals by May 1, 2008.

The Committee decided the funding can be retroactive—if something breaks or needs to be replaced immediately, we would recommend doing the right thing, and we would support it retroactively.

Preparation Plans for Town Meeting

Mr. Crounse asked the Committee whether they wanted to prepare for the up coming Town meeting. The Warrant article on wind turbines was discussed and the possibility of writing a letter to the Journal indicating the Committee’s support. Mr. Crounse will write a letter to the Journal.

Tasks Assigned

Brian Crounse: Letter to Journal on wind turbines, talk with Willard groups, letter to Town Manager.

Pamela Hathaway: continue work on dishwasher application with schools.

The meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Hathaway,

(In the Absence of Tyke Crowley, Clerk)